(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The matter has been taken up with the Chinese authorities for providing hydrological information in respect of Satluj river on the lines of Brahmaputra river by setting up of a hydrological station in the upper catchment.

In this regard during the recent visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India to China in June, 2003, the Indian side also expressed its desire to expand exchange of hydrological information to cover the Satluj river as well, which would help us in forecasting floods and preventing damage to life and property. The Chinese side conveyed that they will consider the request and would make plans for developing the relevant hydrological stations.

Water Resources as National Wealth

275. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has suggested that the Central Government should take up development of water resources as national wealth; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Payment of Salaries to NPCC Employees

†276. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the employees of NPCC are not being paid their salaries on time;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether various workers' unions have submitted memoranda to Government for fulfilling their demands; and

(c) if so, the details of the demands and the steps being taken by Government for fulfilling the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) National Projects Construction Corporation Limited (NPCC) is a sick Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of the Ministry of Water Resources. The company is unable to discharge its liability on its own. it mainly depends upon the assistance provided by the Government. With the help of assistance provided by the Government, the outstanding bills of salaries/wages of employees of NPCC Ltd. have been cleared upto May, 2002. Some worker's unions have submitted from time to time their memoranda of demands regarding wage revision and outstanding dues of salaries/wages etc. The financial constraints faced by NPCC Limited could not permit them to implement the wage revision/to clear outstanding dues. As the Hon'ble Labour Court, Nagpur has restrained the management of NPCC Ltd. from holding negotiations with the representatives of the All India NPCC Employees Federation who enjoys maximum membership amongest workmen of NPCC Ltd., the demands of workmen could not be addressed. During the financial year 2003-2004, Ministry of Water Resources has already released a sum of Rs. 8.50 crore till date to NPCC Limited to meet the outstanding dues.

Objections raised by Ministry of Environment and Forests

277. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the decision of Government to link the rivers of India and develop inter-basin transfers of water is being reviewed in view of some serious difficulties likely to be faced and reservation expressed by many State Governments, NGOs and others;

(b) whether it is also a fact that even the Ministry of Environment and Forests has recently expressed serious concerns by giving a long list of 23 objections to the proposal;